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ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
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9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OCA				
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
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Media Contact:
Bill McAda
(202) 646-4600

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GRANT C. PETERSON NAMED TO HEAD FEMA DIRECTORATE

WASHINGTON -- Grant C. Peterson, a long-time civic, political and government leader in the State of Washington, has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to head the Federal Emergency Management Agency's State and Local Programs and Support Directorate.

As an associate director of FEMA, Peterson, 47, will administer that portion of the agency's more than $600 million annual budget which assists state and local governments to plan for, respond to and mitigate the effects of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies.

The new associate director's responsibilities range from administering the nation's civil defense program to emergency and disaster assistance, radiological emergency and hurricane preparedness, hazardous materials planning, dam safety and elements of the Superfund that involve training, relocation assistance and financial support for state and local government programs.

Peterson's directorate also manages FEMA's Comprehensive Cooperative Agreement program, the single mechanism that provides financial and technical support to state and local emergency management programs.

He replaces Dr. Samuel W. Speck who left the position in September, 1986.

Julius W. Becton Jr., director of FEMA, praised Peterson for his years of government and civic involvement, noting that those experiences coupled with his background in emergency and disaster response programs will contribute measurably toward helping the agency achieve its goals.

(more)

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Add 1 -- Grant C. Peterson...

"Grant Peterson is highly skilled in management and knowledgeable of the workings of state and local governments," Becton said. "These will be valuable assets in supporting FEMA's overall mission."

Prior to his nomination by President Reagan, Peterson served on the Spokane County Commission from January 1982 until January 1987, one of numerous elected or appointed leadership positions he has held. Among those are board or committee memberships dealing with transit, health, trade, area planning and education issues. He served on the regional advisory committee of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management from 1983 until 1986.

As a Spokane County Commission, Peterson was actively involved in working with Superfund, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology in the mitigation of contaminated landfills. He also was instrumental in the creation and construction of a sewer system for Spokane Valley and upgrading emergency operations and disaster response capabilities.

Peterson told the Senate confirmation panel that the experience of living through the Mt. Saint Helens disaster in 1980 provided him "a personal understanding of the need for an effective emergency response and disaster relief program that emphasize uniform and consistent response capabilities implemented in a fair and timely manner."

His political activities include serving as Washington State chairman for the re-election of President Reagan and Vice President Bush. He also was regional director of a four-state area for the Republican National Committee in 1980.

In addition to his political service, Peterson earlier held executive positions in the electronics industry, and from 1971 to 1983 was president of Town & Country Television, Inc., which was located in Cheney, Washington, and served the Spokane area.

(more)

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Add 2 -- Grant C. Peterson...

Born in Whitehall, Montana, Peterson was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Eastern Washington University following service as a NATO advisor and special weapons system monitor in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1966.

Peterson is married and has two children.

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December 18, 1987

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